

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02541 231006Z

22

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 230845Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4131

S E C R E T LUSAKA 2541

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOR SECDEL ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, ZA, US

SUBJECT: NKOMO TRAVEL TO RHODESIA

REF: SECTO 27302

1. CHONA INFORMS ME THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED THE SAME REPORT OF NKOMO'S INTENTION TO RETURN TO RHODESIA AND HAD SUCCEEDED IN TALKING HIM OUT OF IT IN DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY) AFTERNOON. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR RECOMMENDATION WHICH HE WOULD USE TO STRENGTHEN AND TIE DOWN THEIR ADVICE TO NKOMO NOT TO RETURN TO RHODESIA FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. HOWEVER, WHEN I CALLED STATE HOUSE THIS MORNING TO RENEW MY REQUEST TO SEE NKOMO (AS INSTRUCTED SECTO 27239), THE PRIVATE SECRETARY THERE INFORMED ME THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE NKOMO HAD LEFT LAST NIGHT AND WAS NOT NOW IN LUSAKA. HE DID NOT KNOW WHERE NKOMO HAD GONE.

3. FIRST SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION, VARCOE,
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THIS MORNING CAME IN TO ENLIST OUR HELP IN THE SAME EFFORT

TO DISSUADE NKOMO FROM RETURNING TO RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, NKOMO LEFT LUSAKA FOR MAPUTO AND MAY BE PLANNING TO TRAVEL DIRECTLY TO SALISBURY FROM THERE. VARCOE SAID HIS INFORMATION INDICATED THAT NKOMO WENT TO MAPUTO TO TALK TO MACHEL AND MUGABE. IF NKOMO DOES ARRIVE IN SALISBURY BEFORE FRIDAY EVENING, THE ZAMBIANS HAVE GIVEN US THE IMPRESSION THAT HE HAS BEEN WARNED BY THEM TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING WHICH WOULD UPSET DEVELOPMENTS NOW TAKING PLACE THERE. ACCORDING TO A PRESS REPORT THIS MORNING, NKOMO'S FIRST CONCERN WOULD BE TO REPORT TO HIS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO FURTHER DISCOURAGING NKOMO FROM PROCEEDING TO SALISBURY WOULD BE BY APPROACHING HIM IN MAPUTO.

4. THE SAME PRESS REPORT, WHICH CAME FROM REUTERS' INTERVIEW WITH NKOMO, QUOTES HIM AS CALLING FOR AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE FIVE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS FOR TALKS ON A ZIMBABWE PEACE PACKAGE. NKOMO IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THERE ARE SOME "SERIOUS FLAWS" IN DR. KISSINGER'S RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS AND THAT "WHAT IS DONE NEXT WILL HINGE ON WHAT IS DONE ABOUT THESE FLAWS".

5. DURING AN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH CHONA ABOUT ARRANGING TO SEE NKOMO, CHONA VOLUNTEERED THAT NKOMO HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT PERMITTING BOTH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS TO REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF WHITE RHODESIANS. ONE OR THE OTHER WAS ALL RIGHT BUT NOT BOTH.

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